

ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

June 17, 2004

For immediate release

1. **Fish kill near Ottumwa expected to be in the thousands**
2. **EPC to address phosphorous in manure management plans**
3. **Heavy rains cause wastewater bypasses across northern Iowa**
4. **Cattlemen can get technical help from DNR at show**
5. **New fact sheet for open feedlot producers**

FISH KILL NEAR OTTUMWA EXPECTED TO BE IN THE THOUSANDS

OTTUMWA — Thousands of fish, including walleyes, catfish, bluegills, carp and various minnow species, were killed following a spill of sulfuric acid after a traffic accident Wednesday afternoon west of Ottumwa.

An overturned tanker truck spilled approximately 2,500 gallons of sulfuric acid into Sugar Creek west of Ottumwa, causing a fish kill along nearly three-quarters of a mile of stream.

The acid killed fish along the entire stretch of stream from where the accident occurred along U.S. Highway 34 and the confluence of Sugar Creek with the Des Moines River. Water samples taken in Sugar Creek showed pH levels of 1, meaning the water was extremely acidic and corrosive.

Approximately 6,000 gallons of agricultural lime was pumped into Sugar Creek on Wednesday night. The pH levels began to stabilize almost immediately, returning to normal by Thursday morning. DNR investigators were able to observe some live fish in portions of Sugar Creek on Thursday.

High water in the Des Moines River helped hold the flow back from Sugar Creek and it appears the river has not been impacted by the spill.

Exact fish kill numbers were still being determined Thursday. The incident remains under investigation by the DNR.

For more information, contact Kevin Baskins at 515-281-8395 or 515-249-2814.

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EPC TO ADDRESS PHOSPHORUS IN MANURE MANAGEMENT PLANS

DES MOINES — The Environmental Protection Commission will be asked to approve final rules for manure management plans at the June 21 meeting.

The proposed rules will include DNR recommendations on using the phosphorus or P index as part of developing a manure management plan. As the legislature required in 2002, livestock and poultry producers will need to use the phosphorus index to determine if their manure application rates should be based on crop needs for nitrogen or phosphorus. Use of the phosphorus index will be phased in starting 60 days after the effective date of the rule as required by state law.

In other action, commissioners will be asked to approve contracts for beach monitoring, lake monitoring, laboratory certification and the smoking tailpipe program.

The EPC will meet on Monday, at 10 a.m., at the DNR office, 7900 Hickman Road in Urbandale. Public participation is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. The meeting is open to the public.

The complete agenda follows:

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Director's Remarks
- Final Rule: Amendment to Chapter 65.17 - Manure Management Plan Content Requirements
- Proposed Rule: Amendments to Chapter 65 - Definitions, Construction Permit Requirements, Master Matrix and Groundwater Determination
- Solid Waste Alternatives Program - Recommendations
- Contract for Beach Monitoring Services with the University of Iowa - 2004
- Contract: Amend Contract with Iowa State University for Lake Monitoring Services
- Brownfield Redevelopment Program Overview
- Final Rule: Chapter 137 - Iowa Land Recycling Program and Response Action Standards
- Final Rule: Chapter 49 - Nonpublic Water Supply Wells and Chapter 82 - Well Contractor Certification
- 2004 Laboratory Certification Agreement with University of Iowa
- SFY 2005 DNR/UHL Air Quality Bureau Support Contract

- Contracts: Lamar Advertising, Clear Channel Outdoor, Clear Channel Communications
- Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Iowa Department of Economic Development
- Amendment with the University of Northern Iowa's (UNI) Iowa Waste Reduction Center
- Notice of Intended Action: Air Quality Program Rules Chapters 22, 23 and 25, Updates, Revisions and Additions
- Contract: TBM Consulting Group for Kaizen Process Improvement Events
- Referrals to the Attorney General
 - US Petro, Inc. Sukhdev Singh, and SSJG Petroleum, Inc. (Quad Cities/Muscatine) - underground tanks
- Monthly Reports
- General Discussion

More information about the agenda items can be found on the DNR Web site under Commissions and Boards at www.iowadnr.com.

The members of the commission are Kathryn Murphy, Chair, LeMars; Terrance Townsend, Newton; Lisa Davis-Cook, West Des Moines; Darrell Hanson, Manchester; Lori Glanzman, Mt. Pleasant; Jerry Peckum, Jefferson; Heidi Vittetoe, Washington; Francis Thicke, Fairfield; and Donna Buell, Spirit Lake. The director of the DNR is Jeff Vonk.

For more information, contact Karen Grimes, at (515) 281-5135.

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HEAVY RAINS CAUSE WASTEWATER BYPASSES ACROSS NORTHERN IOWA

DES MOINES — Heavy rains Wednesday and Thursday caused a number of wastewater bypasses across northern Iowa.

Many communities bypassed to prevent health risks that would be created from sewage backing up into residential basements when wastewater systems could not keep up with the heavy rainfall. High stream flows should help to dilute the wastewater.

Cities are not required to immediately report precipitation-induced bypasses. Bypasses not related to precipitation must be reported to the DNR within 12 hours of discovery. A 24-hour spill response line is available for cities to report non-precipitation-related bypasses that occur outside of normal business hours.

Bypasses are listed below, alphabetically by city.

Fonda

Bypassed approximately 20,000 gallons on Wednesday to a drainage ditch that flows into Cedar Creek, a tributary of the North Raccoon River.

Fort Dodge

Bypassed approximately two million gallons for over an hour Wednesday evening to the Des Moines River.

Garnavillo

Bypassed an unknown amount of wastewater from the south lift station for two hours on Wednesday evening.

Holstein

Bypassed to prevent sewage backup into basements. Bypassing from a lift station and pumping out of manholes to a tributary to the Maple River, which flows into the Missouri River.

Lytton

Bypassed an unknown amount of wastewater into a tributary of the North Raccoon River Wednesday night.

Manson

Bypassed an unknown amount of wastewater into a tributary of the North Raccoon River Wednesday night.

Odebolt

Bypassing to a tributary of the Maple River, which flows into the Missouri River. One well has been taken out of service because the well is surrounded by floodwater, although the well is located on a mound and not in danger of being flooded.

Oelwein

Six manholes in southwest Oelwein bypassed Wednesday and Thursday into a ditch, which drains into the Wapsipinicon River. It is estimated that tens of thousands of gallons of wastewater were bypassed.

Sherrill

Discharged an unknown amount of treated wastewater Wednesday night to relieve pressure on the wastewater system and prevent damage to a dike.

Sioux City

Bypassed approximately 110,000 gallons of partially-treated wastewater from its wastewater treatment facility to the Missouri River for about an hour on Wednesday.

West Union

Bypassed approximately 2,000 gallons of wastewater for two hours Wednesday night into flooded Otter Creek.

Wyoming

Bypassed Wednesday night to Little Bear Creek, a tributary to Big Bear Creek. Bypassed from two to three manholes to relieve pressure on the wastewater system.

For more information, contact your local DNR field office at:

Manchester	(563) 927-2640
Mason City	(641) 424-4073
Spencer	(712) 262-4177
Atlantic	(712) 243-1934
Des Moines	(515) 725-0268
Washington	(319) 653-2135

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CATTLEMEN CAN GET TECHNICAL HELP FROM DNR AT SHOW

DES MOINES — The DNR will provide technical help to cattle producers trying to meet a 2006 deadline for environmental compliance at a summer trade conference in Ames.

DNR engineering, geological and field staff will be at the June 24 and 25 show. They can answer questions about permits, and demonstrate how in-house environmental assessments are conducted.

“We want to help producers bring all open feedlots into compliance by the deadline,” said Gene Tinker, coordinator of the DNR animal feeding program.

He added that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has made it clear that there will be no extension of the deadline, so all open feedlots need to have structures and permits in place by 2006.

“Stop by our booth and we’ll have answers for you and your situation,” Tinker said.

The Iowa Cattlemen’s Association Trade Show will be held at the Scheman Building at the Iowa State Center. Exhibit hours are from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on June 24, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on June 25.

For more information, contact Gene Tinker at 515-281-3103.

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NEW FACT SHEET FOR OPEN FEEDLOT PRODUCERS

DES MOINES — The DNR has a new fact sheet for open feedlot producers who need an operation permit.

The publication was designed to help people develop a plan of action so they can bring their open lots into compliance with environmental regulations by 2006.

“This publication should be helpful to cattlemen because it provides information about what needs to be in the plan and the deadlines that producers must meet,” said Gene Tinker, coordinator of the DNR animal feeding program.

Look for “Guidance for Writing a Plan of Action” on the DNR Web site under “Animal Feeding Operations” at www.iowadnr.com.

For more information, contact Gene Tinker at 515-281-3103.